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Janice E. Favreau

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of)
Jacques Bourdel) Group Art Unit: 1764
on A METHOD AND A MACHINE FOR)
EXTRACTING, BY EVAPORATION,)
SOLID RESIDUE CONTAINED IN A)
FLUID MATTER)
Serial No.: 09/890,016)
Filed On: July 25, 2001) (Our Docket No. 6687-03WOUS)

Hartford, Connecticut - August 29, 2002

Commissioner
of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF DENIAL OF REFUND

Dear Sir:

In response to the Denial of Applicant's Request for Refund dated August 22, 2002, Applicant submits a copy of the Preliminary Amendment with amendments to the English translation of the PCT Application No. PCT/FR99/03283 that eliminated multiple dependencies at the time of filing. Copies of the page 26 from the Marked-Up Copy Showing Changes Made of the English translation of PCT/FR99/03283 and page 25

jc525 U.S. PTO
09/03/02

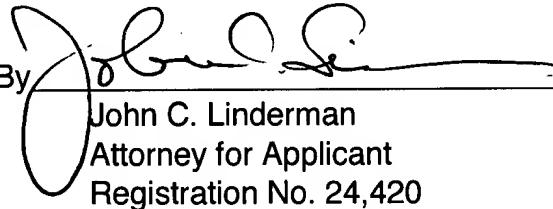
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TC 1700

from the amended Substitute Application (clean copy) are enclosed to show that the multiple dependency of Claim 3 was eliminated.

Therefore, the charge for a multiple dependency should be refunded.

Favorable reconsideration of the Denial is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
John C. Linderman
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 24,420

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CityPlace II, 185 Asylum Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103-4102
(860) 549-5290

CLAIMS

1/ A method of extracting, by evaporation, solid residue in suspension and/or in solution in fluid matter containing volatile substances, in particular aqueous matter, the method comprising:

5 a) applying the matter [(M)] to be treated in the form of a thin layer on the smooth and hot face [(10)] of a heat exchange wall [(1)] which is heated to a temperature that is high enough to cause the water and/or other volatile

10 substances contained in the matter to evaporate quickly, said hot wall [(1)] moving cyclically around a closed path;

15 b) crushing the layer of matter [(M)] against said hot face [(10)] to level it and to encourage crumbling and spreading thereof; and

15 c) at the end of a cycle, recovering the solid and dry residue [(2)] that has formed on said hot face by scraping it off;

20 the method being characterized by the fact that immediately before applying the material, it is caused to expand greatly in volume so as to give it the consistency of a foam, such that it is the foam which is applied in the form of a thin layer on the hot face.

25 2/ A method according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the volume is expanded by a factor lying in the range 20 to 100.

30 3/ A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterized by the fact that particles [(p)] that remain adhering to said hot face after the scraping operation are eliminated in order to prevent them reaching the zone in which the foam is applied.

Claim 1

35 4/ A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized by the fact that the treated matter [(M)] is farm-yard manure, in particular pig manure.

CLAIMS

1/ A method of extracting, by evaporation, solid residue in suspension and/or in solution in fluid matter containing
5 volatile substances, in particular aqueous matter, the method comprising:

a) applying the matter to be treated in the form of a thin layer on the smooth and hot face of a heat exchange wall which is heated to a temperature that is high enough
10 to cause the water and/or other volatile substances contained in the matter to evaporate quickly, said hot wall moving cyclically around a closed path;

b) crushing the layer of matter against said hot face to level it and to encourage crumbling and spreading
15 thereof; and

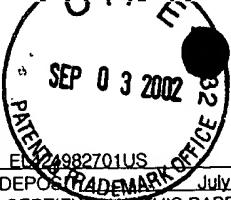
c) at the end of a cycle, recovering the solid and dry residue that has formed on said hot face by scraping it off;

the method being characterized by the fact that
20 immediately before applying the material, it is caused to expand greatly in volume so as to give it the consistency of a foam, such that it is the foam which is applied in the form of a thin layer on the hot face.

2/ A method according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the volume is expanded by a factor lying in the range 20 to 100.

3/ A method according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that particles that remain adhering to said hot face after the scraping operation are eliminated in order to prevent them reaching the zone in which the foam is applied.

4/ A method according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the treated matter is farm-yard manure, in particular pig manure.



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In the Application of)
Jacques Bourdel)
on A METHOD AND A MACHINE FOR)
EXTRACTING, BY EVAPORATION,)
SOLID RESIDUE CONTAINED IN A)
FLUID MATTER)
Serial No.: Not yet Assigned)
Filed On:) (Our Docket No. 6687-03WOUS)

Assistant Commissioner
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

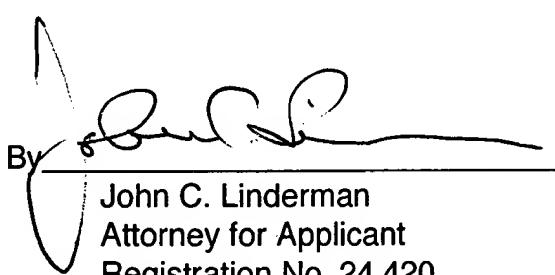
Applicant respectfully requests preliminary amendments be made to the specification and claims of the United States patent application identified above, as indicated in the enclosed marked up copy. The amendments have been made to the English translation (also enclosed without amendments) of the original PCT International Application Serial No. PCT/FR99/03283 as filed and from which the

present application claims priority. A clean copy of the amended (Substitute Application) specification and claims is also enclosed.

The proposed changes are requested to put the specification in a form acceptable to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and present claims 1 to 26 in the same form as presented for the International Preliminary Examination without multiple dependencies as well as (2) new claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the requested amendments do not add any new matter into the present application.

Date

By



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